Mountain Weather Forecast

Southwest Highlands

Including Ben Nevis, Glen Coe and the rest of Lochaber, Argyll including the Isles, Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Arran

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 until 23:59 on Sunday 31 Dec 2023

Forecast Issued on Saturday 30 Dec 2023 at 03:10 by Met Office Aberdeen

Confidence: High for Saturday and for less severe conditions on Sunday, but lower for northern extent of showers on Sunday and Monday. Low for broader weather from Tuesday.

Headline for Saturday 30 Dec 2023: Persistent snow and gales spreading northeast.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Blizzards High Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Medium Likelihood	**Storm force winds** High Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** High Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Cloudy	Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow
Precipitation probability					
<05%	40%	80%	80%	90%	80%

Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Weather: Cloud thickening and lowering through the morning with persistent snow and severe summit gales spreading northeast. Snow heavy at times, but turning to rain below 900-1000m during the afternoon. Turning back to snow down to 700-800m in the evening before clears west by midnight.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 70% early morning. 20% in the afternoon.

Low Cloud and visibility: Very good visibility in the morning with the main cloud base well above the summits. Cloud lowering to 400m as snow arrives, occasionally to lower slopes. Near zero visibility in blizzards on the hills.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/specialist-forecasts/mountain
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Forecast for Saturday 30 Dec 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
1300	19/23 E	29/35 SE	57/72 SE	61/79 SE	39/50 SE	21/27 SE	18/22 SE
900	18/22 E	27/33 SE	42/57 SE	44/60 SE	27/38 SE	14/19 SE	14/18 SE
600	21/25 E	22/26 E	57/71 SE	60/76 SE	35/45 SE	16/21 SE	13/17 SE
300	5/7 N	8/12 E	33/51 SE	37/56 SE	22/35 SE	9/17 SE	9/15 E
Glen	6/14 NE	13/25 NE	13/34 E	28/55 SE	17/34 SE	8/14 E	6/13 NE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
1300	-2/-9	-4/-13	-6/-18	-6/-19	-4/-15	-3/-11	-3/-10
900	-4/-12	-4/-13	-3/-14	-4/-14	-3/-11	-1/-7	-2/-8
600	0/-6	2/-4	2/-7	2/-8	2/-5	2/-3	2/-2
300	-1/-4	2/-2	2/-5	1/-8	2/-4	3/-1	3/-1
Glen	-1/-4	2/-3	4/-1	3/-4	4/-1	4/1	3/1
Freezing Level*	00m	100m	300m	300m	600m	800m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Met Office Aberdeen Meteorologist's View
Extremely challenging conditions on the hills with near zero visibility, heavy snow and severe summit gales making any progress very difficult, especially at higher levels.

Forecast for Sunday 31 Dec 2023
Weather: Mostly cloudy with frequent showers, these falling as snow above 700m in the early hours and morning. Showers largely confined to western and southern hills in the afternoon and evening, drier with clear spells over Lochaber.

Maximum wind: Generally east or southeast 20-25 gusting 30 mph, easing to east 15-20 mph in the afternoon and 10 mph in the evening.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 20-30%

Low Cloud and visibility: Visibility often poor in cloud, bases around 700m, occasionally lower in showers. Increasing chance of good visibility and clearer skies over Lochaber towards midnight.

Temperature: **Glens:** Plus 2 Celsius.
At 800m: Zero Celsius.
Freezing level: 800-900m.

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